

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 11-14, and 17 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of December 20, 2005, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *U.S. Patent Application 2003/0030767* ("767") in view of *U.S. Patent No. 6,297,863* ("863").
- B.) Rejected claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over 767 in view of *U.S. Patent Application 2004/0183969* ("969").
- C.) Allowed claim 17.
- D.) Objected to claims 5-7.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *U.S. Patent Application 2003/0030767* ("767") in view of *U.S. Patent No. 6,297,863* ("863"):
Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice.

- B.) Rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over 767 in view of *U.S. Patent Application 2004/0183969* ("969"):
Claims 11-13 have been canceled without prejudice.

- C.) Allowance of claim 17:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 17.

- D.) Objected to claims 5-7:

Claims 5, 6, and 7 have each been amended to be placed in independent form including any base claims and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 5-7 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 5-7 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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